of Orissa and Madhya Pradesh on the 40-acre forest land near Koma Khan on the Orissa—Madhya Pradesh border;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the land on which Government of Orissa stakes its claim is now in the possession of Madhya Pradesh Government; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to solve the dispute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs have already issued suitable instructions dated 25th March, 1991 for settlement of dispute between the Governments of Orissa and Madhya Pradesh.

Setting up of an Elephant Sanctuary in Phulabani, Orissa

5. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the need to set up an elephant sanctuary in Phulabani district of Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken toy Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Elephant Sanctuary is likely to be set up during the current financial year; and

(d) what alternative steps are pro posed to be taken for the proper pre servation of elephants in Phulabani district of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) Government of India had constituted a Task Force to work out a specific plan of action for conservation of elephants in the country. In its report, titled PROJECT ELEPHANT, the Task Force has observed that the goals of elephants' conservation cannot be achieved by creating few islands of wildlife protected areas. The conservation of the entire habitat range and adjustment between the needs of local people and wildlife conservation is crucial. It has been recommended in the report that conservation efforts have to be concentrated on the larger populations of elephants utilising contiguous areas. The report has listed priority areas to be covered, under the Project-'Phulabani' does not meet the criteria for inclusion in the PROJECT ELEPHANT.

(d) The elephant population all over the country, including Phulabani, enioys total protection under the WILD LIFE (PROTECTION) Act, 1972. The internal as well as external trade in ivory are also banned.

Maternal/Infant Mortality Rate

6. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of States which have maximum maternal mortality rate/infant mortality rate in the country;

(b) what are the details of districts in Uttar Pradesh which have maximum maternal mortality ratelinfant mortality rate; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken to tackle the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c) Registrar General of India carry out a Sample Registration System (SRS) to provide estimates of various aspects of Vital Statistics every year, including estimates of birth rate and infant mortality rate. Estimates of maternal mortality rate are not provided through this system

According to the Provisional results available from SRS for 1990, State of